

MINUTES

—OF THE—

☛Forty-Fourth Annual Session☚

—OF THE—

ZION :- BAPTIST :- ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH,

CRENSHAW COUNTY, ALABAMA.

:: COMMENCING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1900. ::

OFFICERS.

JOHN T. WATSON,	MODERATOR.
E. A. BRANTLEY,	CLERK.
J. W. CROSS,	TREASURER.



MINUTES.

The Zion Baptist Association met in its Forty-Fourth Annual Session with Friendship Church, Crenshaw County, Alabama, on Friday, the 19th day of October, 1900, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

In the absence of the appointee, Elder S. J. Williamson was requested to preach the Introductory sermon, which he did, using the 8th verse of the 6th chapter of Hebrews. After preaching, adjourned one hour for dinner.

1:30 p. m. The delegates assembled in the house, and in the absence of the Moderator, on motion of E. A. Brantley, Bro. John T. Watson was requested to act as temporary Moderator.

The Moderator appointed Elder C. L. Eiland, G. A. Riley and L. R. Russell to read the letters from the churches, which were read, 17 in number.

Permanent organization was then effected by the election by ballot, of John T. Watson, Moderator, E. A. Brantley, Clerk, and J. W. Cross, Treasurer. Petitionary letters were called for and Gantt Church presented a letter which was read by the Clerk, and on motion of Elder L. M. Thomasson, her messengers were received and the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship, and gave them seats in the body.

Called for Correspondents which were responded to by Elder S. J. Williamson from Conecuh Association; Elder C.

L. Eiland, Charles Ganett and W. A. Cumbie, from Providence Association; J. P. Graham from Pea River Association; Elders Joe Kierce and T. T. Dobbs from the Alabama Association.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees :

General and Ministerial Education—L. A. Simms, B. J. Taylor, Jacob Johnson and B. F. Watson.

Orphans Home—R. D. Shell, G. W. Hart, R. M. Clary and C. A. Beasley.

On Missions—Elder L. M. Thomasson, J. F. Broady, M. C. Brogden and A. H. Robinson.

Nominations—W. L. Morris, J. W. Simms, R. D. Shell and G. A. Mock.

Temperance—E. A. Brantley, R. A. Shell, Marion Lee and G. A. Mock.

Finance—J. E. Hughes, James Johnson and G. W. Bagley.

Institute Work—L. R. Russell, E. C. Godwin and G. A. Mock.

Sunday Schools—G. A. Riley, J. A. Chambliss and R. A. Shell.

Religious Exercises—The Pastor and Delegates of Friendship Church.

On Consistency—

Committee on Hospitality reported and Messengers and visitors were assigned to homes during the session. After prayer by Elder J. P. Graham, the body adjourned to Saturday morning at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING OCTOBER 20TH.

The body was called to order by the Moderator, and after singing "How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours," and prayer by Elder C. L. Eiland, the call was renewed for correspondence, and Bro. J. M. Whatley, J. J. Watson from New Providence Association responded, and were given seats in the body.

The Committee on Religious Exercises made their report: That Elders J. P. Graham preach at the harbor at 11 o'clock, a. m., Saturday, and T. T. Dobbs at 3 o'clock, p. m., and Elder T. V. Neal to preach the Missionary Sermon on Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m.

L. R. Russell, chairman of the Committee on Institute

Work, made his report, which was discussed at length by Elders C. L. Eiland, W. A. Cumbie, T. T. Dobbs, S. J. Williamson, Bro. G. W. Bagley and others.

Adopted. See Appendix A.

W. L. Morris, chairman of Committee on Nominations reported as follows: See Appendix B.

Brother Wm. Odum offered the following resolution: That this Association instruct the Clerk to send at least three copies of these minutes to all churches belonging to this Association and not represented this year.

L. A. Simms, chairman of the Committee on General and Ministerial Education, made his report, which was spoken to by the chairman, Elders W. A. Cumbie, S. J. Williamson and Brethren Joel Pitts, J. E. Hughes, Wm. Odum and E. A. Brantley.

Adopted. See Appendix C.

On motion the body adjourned to 1:30 o'clock for dinner.

1:30 p. m. After singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul" the Moderator called for the report on Missions, which was read by L. M. Thomasson, the chairman, and discussed by the chairman, Elders S. J. Williamson, T. V. Neal, W. A. Cumbie and others, which was adopted. See Appendix D.

Elder T. V. Neal, who had been employed as an Evangelical Missionary for the past three months, made the following report:

"That while he had worked in the Zion Association, he had worked 94 days; traveled 561 miles; visited 135 families; organized 1 Sunday School; organized 1 church; preached 82 sermons; delivered 5 addresses; received 32 members by baptism, 17 members by letter and 4 by restoration; total number of members received 53.

Pledges for State Missions were then taken, amounting to \$114.50, which were distributed as follows: Zion Church \$5, River Falls church \$10; Mt. Olive church \$4; Mobley Creek church \$20; Bethany church \$10; Fairmount church \$25; Florala church \$15; Pleasant Grove church \$5; Andalusia church \$25; Friendship church \$5; Gantt church \$5.

Individual Pledges—Mrs. Mike Cook \$1, Wm. Odum \$2.50.

On motion an unpaid claim of \$37 of Elder J. T. Thomasson was presented by the chairman of the Executive Committee;

was considered by the body and ordered paid by the Treasurer out of the State Mission fund now on hand.

The chairman of the Committee on Temperance made his report, which was postponed to Sunday morning 9 o'clock. After prayer by Elder C. L. Eiland the body, on motion, adjourned to Sunday morning 9 o'clock.

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 21ST.

9 o'clock a. m. The Moderator called the body together and prayer was offered by Elder Joe Kierce. The Clerk read the minutes, which were adopted, after which the roll was called and absentees marked.

The report on Temperance was re-read and discussed at considerable length by Jacob Johnson, S. J. Williamson, R. A. Shell, Joe Kierce, T. V. Neal and W. A. Cumbie. Adopted, see Appendix E.

The chairman on Sabbath Schools made his report, which was spoken to by the chairman, Asburry Shell, Elders L. M. Thomasson, T. V. Neal and brothers Joel Pitts and J. W. Cross. Adopted, see Appendix F.

It was moved and carried that the Zion Association meet on Thursday next before the Association to meet on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1901, in a Sunday School Convention, and each Sunday School in said Association are requested to send delegates to said Convention, and make a report of their labors to the Association at said session.

R. M. Clary, chairman of the Committee on Orphans Home, made his report, which was discussed by R. M. Clary, R. A. Shell, Joel Pitts, J. W. Cross, and Elders T. V. Neal and L. M. Thomasson. Adopted, see Appendix H.

A collection was then taken up for the benefit of the Orphans Home, amounting to \$5.85, and turned over to the Treasurer to forward to the Home at Evergreen.

At 11 o'clock the body adjourned to the harbor and Elder T. V. Neal preached the Missionary Sermon from the following text, 1st Corinthians, 11th verse of the 3rd chapter, to a very large and appreciative congregation, after which a collection was taken for State Missions amounting to \$13.10.

The body then took a recess for one hour for dinner.

1:30 p. m. The Moderator called the body to order in the

house, and after singing "Jesus Lover of My Soul," announced ready for business.

The Moderator appointed the following named brethren to act as an Executive Committee for the next associational year, to-wit: E. A. Brantley, chairman, and J. W. Cross, Jacob Johnson, J. B. Jones and J. D. Barrow, who were instructed to employ a Missionary to preach in the bounds of the Association for all his time, and the committee were further instructed to employ Elder T. V. Neal to act as an evangelical missionary during the summer of next year, in the bounds of the Zion Association.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to have the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Abstract of Faith of the Zion Association printed in the minutes.

On motion of Y. S. Cook a committee on Consistency was appointed to report next year.

On motion of Elder L. M. Thomasson, the Moderator appointed a committee to arrange a program for the Sunday School Convention, to meet with Bethany Church next year, and divide said program into different heads. Elders L. M. Thomasson, J. M. Robinson, A. B. Metcalf and Bro. G. W. Bagley, committee.

Elder T. V. Neal offered the following resolution:

That the Zion Association, after a fair trial, heartily endorse the plan of Rev. G. E. Mize, employ Howard College ministerial students as missionaries during the summer months of their vacation.

Resolved 2nd. That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the Alabama Baptist for publication.

On motion the Resolutions were adopted.

On motion of E. A. Brantley, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we tender our heart-felt thanks to the brethren and sisters of Friendship Church, and also to the friends and citizens of the community of Aiken, for their kindness and hospitality during our session.

On motion it was made the duty of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, to call upon the churches for contribu-

tions for the support of a missionary during the next associational year.

The report of the Finance Committee was read and adopted. See Appendix I.

The Treasurer made his report, which was adopted. See Appendix J.

There being no other business, the minutes were read, corrected and adopted.

On motion, after a harmonious session, the body adjourned to meet with Bethany Church, at Heath, Covington County, Alabama, on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1901.

E. A. BRANTLEY,
CLERK.

J. T. WATSON,
MODERATOR.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS OF THE ZION ASSOCIATION.

P. D. Bulger, L. M. Thomasson, G. W. Kierce, W. D. Brooks, J. M. Smith, J. T. Thomasson, J. M. Robinson, A. B. Metcalf, M. V. Hare, W. P. Howell, H. A. Mason, A. J. Brooks, F. A. Garrett, J. H. Henly, —Campbell, —Haribuck, and J. M. Thomas, Licentiate.

LIST OF MESSENGERS.

James Johnson, J. W. Cross, J. A. Chambliss, J. W. Simms, R. D. Shell, R. A. Shell, B. J. Taylor, L. R. Russell, Y. S. Cook, J. F. Broady, Wm. Odum, M. C. Brogden, E. Patterson, Joel Pitts, R. M. Clary, James Lowery, Richard Chance, Jacob Johnson, C. A. Beasley, G. W. Bagley, A. H. Robinson, E. C. Godwin, W. T. Raley, G. A. Mock, J. E. Hughes, E. A. Brantley, L. A. Simms, L. M. Thomasson, J. M. Hutcheson, J. J. Moore, W. L. Morris, G. A. Riley.

[App. A.] REPORT ON INSTITUTE WORK.

The Committee on Institute Work made the following report:

We think the work very important, and though we failed to get a meeting of this kind last year, we recommend that

efforts be made to have an Institute meeting held in our bounds during the ensuing associational year. We recommend that our Clerk correspond with Bro. G. A. Anderson and make the necessary arrangements for the holding of an Institute in the Zion Association some time during the present year.

Respectfully submitted,

L. R. RUSSELL, Chm'n.

[App. B.]

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

The Committee on Nominations submitted their report as follows:

Your Committee on Nominations submit the following as their report: That Elder H. A. Mason preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder F. A. Garrett, alternate. Elder A. B. Metcalf preach the Missionary Sermon on Sunday and Elder J. M. Robinson, alternate. We find three churches that have invited the next session of this body to meet with them, namely, Sardis, Bethel and Bethany, and we recommend that our next session be held with Bethany church, near Heath Station, on the Georgia Central R. R., Covington County, Ala.

[App. C.] GENERAL AND MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The Committee on General and Ministerial Education beg leave to make the following as their report:

That the zeal for Education seems to be on the upgrade, and we earnestly recommend our people to take more interest in the education of their children, and advise parents to avail themselves of all the school facilities possible in this age. In order that their offsprings may be fully qualified to do their full share of the duties in life, that lie out before them, we therefore urge upon all the great Baptist brotherhood, to patronize the Judson Institute, at Marion, Ala., for their girls, and Howard College, at East Lake, Ala., for their boys. We all know that our ministry should be called of God, as was Aaron of old, and then be educated to the fullest extent possible. And we recommend to all ministers that are not able to attend college, to attend Dr. Anderson's Institutes

Respectfully submitted,

L. A. SIMMS, Chm'n.

[App. D.]

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Elder L. M. Thomasson made the following report on Missions:

Your Committee on Missions make the following as our report: We are commanded in God's Word to go into all the

world and preach the gospel to every creature, begining at Jerusalem, Samaria and Judea. and then to the uttermost parts of the earth. While this is the case there are thousands upon thousands in our own country that have the bread of life, there are millions in foreign lands that are starving for that same bread, and now, oh brethren, seeing as we do the great demand for united efforts, let us be constrained by the laws of love, to make greater efforts, and put forth more zeal into the great cause of missions. We need more Missionaries in heathern lands, and more Evangelists in our own lands.

Knowing as we do that it is the duty of every child of grace to aid in this great and grand work. Let us lay aside every weight and run the race with patience, and bring in many sheaves to the fold of God, and we would humbly and in the fear of God, call your attention to the neglected part of our own dear Association, which is being captured by isms. There are a great many churches that are destitute of the Gospel, and a great many localities entirely destitute, many widowed mothers and orphan children, that have no chance to hear the Gospel in its purity. And while we are neglecting our duties the devil is ever awake. We plead with you, brethren, in behalf of the cause of missions, and pray Almighty God, to help us put forth our best means of grace.

And now, brethren, in conclusion, we recommend that steps be taken to send some faithful servant into every destitute place in the bounds of our beloved Zion.

Very respectfully,

L. M. THOMASSON, Chm'n.

[App. E.]

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance made their report which is as follows:

Your Committee on Temperance make this as our report: That while we find the sale and use of intoxicating liquors somewhat on the decrease, yet it is alarming to see and know the vast amount of the vile stuff that is now being drank every day in our own midst, and brethren, we think it is time, and high-time, that our ministry and churches were waking up to a stronger sense of duty in stamping out this monster from our country, which is dragging so many of our young and brightest men down to a drunkards grave, and a drunkard's hell; for we are taught in the words of the Holy Writ, that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven, and we are admonished from the same source, to touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing; and also to look not upon the wine when it is red, when it moveth itself aright in

the cup, for at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder. And we now recommend that all ministers and Sunday School officers, preach and teach earnestly and faithfully and discipline all their members against the use and sale of all intoxicating liquors or bitters of whatsoever name or kind, as a beverage, and parents should faithfully instill into their children the horrors of this drink evil. And now, brethren, let us pray and work in order that the Temperance cause may still be strengthened in the world, until the ruinous traffic in ardent spirits is prohibited. Therefore, we recommend total abstinence from intoxicating drink, that is don't drink at all.

And now in conclusion, let us as a band of Baptist, let our light so shine before the world, that others seeing our good works may be constrained to glorify our Father who art in heaven.

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. Brantley, Marion Lee, Asbury Shell, M. G. Duke,
Committee.

[App. F.] REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Chairman of the Committee on Sabbath Schools made his report as follows:

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following report: We have made diligent enquiry into all the churches of the Zion Association and find that 17 out of the 18 churches represented, have had Sunday Schools for at least a part of the year, and we earnestly ask the messengers of the churches that have let their schools go down, to reorganize the same, and to establish schools in every neighborhood where it is practicable.

And we recommend for the use of all our schools the literature of the Southern Baptist Convention. The address is I. J. Vanness, D. D., Editor, Nashville, Tenn. Price 2 cents per quarter, 8 cents per year.

Very Respectfully submitted,

J. A. Chambliss, G. A. Riley and R. A. Shell,
Committee.

[App. H.] REPORT ON ORPHANS HOME.

The Committee on Orphans Home report as follows:

Your Committee on Orphans Home beg leave to offer the following as our report, That we find only 8 churches so far as we have been able to ascertain, that contributed anything to this highly deserving institution, which have paid the following amounts: Cash \$12.30; vouchers \$16.50; all of which we recommend that the Treasurer forward to the Secretary

and Treasurer of the Orphanage, Rev. John W. Stewart, of
Evergreen, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,
R. M. Clary, Asbury Shell,
Committee.

[App. I.]

REPORT ON FINANCE.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows:

To State Missions Vouchers	:	:	:	\$100.00
To State Mission Cash,	:	:	:	37.23
To State Mission Sabbath Collection,	:	:	:	13.10
To Orphans Home Cash,	:	:	:	18.16
To Orphans Home Vouchers,	:	:	:	16.50
To Minute Fund,	:	:	:	22.80
To Foreign Missions,	:	:	:	.25
To Fund for Indigent Ministers,	:	:	:	.35
To the P. D. Bulger Fund Vouchers,	:	:	:	10.50

Total	:	:	:	:	\$218.89
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All of which has been turned over to the Treasurer.

J. E. HUGHES, Chm'n.

[App. J.]

TREASURER'S REPORT.

For State Missions on Hand from Last Year,	\$ 25.00
For State for Cash and Vouchers	: : 137.23
For Sabbath Collection,	: : : 13.10
For Orphans Home Cash and Vouchers,	: : 34.66
For Minute Fund,	: : : : 22.80
For P. D. Bulger Fund Vouchers,	: : 10.50
Foreign Missions,	: : : : .25
Indigent Ministers Fund,	: : : : .35

Total,	:	:	:	:	\$243.89
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J. W. CROSS, Treasurer.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ZION ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. This Union of Churches shall be known and designated by the style and title of the Zion Baptist Association.

ART. II. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in union. No Church in this Union shall be entitled to more than two Messengers until her members exceed 50. She shall then have the right to three Messengers, and one for each additional twenty-five or fractional part thereof, over fifty members.

ART. III. The Delegates when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberate body by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk. These officers shall be chosen by ballot each annual session, and continue in office until new ones are chosen.

ART. IV. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of

Churches, of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory body or council, assuming no authority except which is expressly delegated to her by the Churches, or is evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. She nevertheless claims authority over her own members—the Delegates of Churches—and in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches which depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith, or disorderly in practice. She should therefore regard all the Churches united under the Constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Her principle business shall be to promote the decorative glory of God, by extending His kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and other means in accordance with that Gospel. To cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those of the Association.

ART. V. A newly constituted or churches dismissed from other churches of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union on their sending up their Delegates to an annual meeting with a petition, and by those Delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles of the Association.

ART. VI. The churches of this union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association written communications specifying the name of the Delegates, number in fellowship, number baptised, received by letter, dismissal, excluded, restored, deceased since last session, and all other information that the church may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. VII. This Association shall have a fund supplied by voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over through the committees on Finance to the Treasurer, who shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

APT. VIII. This Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

ART. IX. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulties between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them. Then the Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at their discretion.

ART. X. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. XI. This Association when convened, shall be governed by proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to frame or amend according to her own views.

RULES OF DECORUM.

RULE 1.—The Moderator shall fill the Chair and preserve order in the Association, which shall be opened and closed by prayer.

RULE 2.—The privileges and authority of the Moderator shall be respected by all the members. He shall decide all questions of order and propriety.

RULE 3.—The Moderator shall vote in no case, unless there is a tie in the Association, then he shall give the casting vote. He shall have the same privilege of speaking as other members, provided he shall appoint some member to fill the Chair.

RULE 4.—But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat, and address the Moderator, and keep the subject, and he shall not speak more than twice on the same subject without leave from the Chair.

RULE 5.—No member shall leave the body while on business except by permission from the Chair.

RULE 6.—When a question is taken up, after allowing time for deliberation, the Moderator shall take the voice of the body by calling for the yeas and nays.

RULE 7.—All motions in order must be disposed of by the body, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

RULE 8.—A list of the names of the Delegates shall be called and absentees marked.

RULE 9.—The Clerk shall enroll the names of the Delegates, and keep a regular record of all the business of the Association.

RULE 10.—The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected before the body rise.

RULE 11.—This Decorum may be altered or amended by two thirds of the members of the body.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH.

Article I.—We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.—1 John 5:7.

Art. II.—We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

Art. 3.—We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.—Ephesians 1:4, 5.

Art. IV.—We believe in the doctrine of original sin.—Rom. 6:23.

Art. V.—We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.—John 6:44, 45; Romans 11:6; Eph. 2:1-9.

Art. VI.—We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.—2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13, 14.

Art. VII.—We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.—John 6:37; 2 Tim. 1:9.

Art. VIII.—We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.—John 10:28-30.

Art. IX.—We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects for these ordinances, and that immersion only is baptism.—Colos. 2:12; Acts 8:38.

Art. X.—We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment.—Jobe 19:26, 27.

Art. XI.—We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.—Matthew 25:46.

Art. XII.—We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of the gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of hands of a presbytery.—1 Tim. 4:50; 5:22.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF ZION ASSOCIATION.

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